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EXAMINER  
NGUYEN, K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER  
3202 5

DATE MAILED: 09/30/92

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.  
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

☒ This application has been examined ☐ Responsive to communication filed on \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), 0 days from the date of this letter.  
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892.        | 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice re Patent Drawing, PTO-948.        |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449.  | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of informal Patent Application, Form PTO-152. |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474. | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> _____  |

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

1. ☒ Claims 1 - 10 are pending in the application.

Of the above, claims \_\_\_\_\_ are withdrawn from consideration.

2. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ have been cancelled.

3. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are allowed.

4. ☒ Claims 1 - 10 are rejected.

5. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are objected to.

6. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

7. ☐ This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.

8. ☐ Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.

9. ☐ The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on \_\_\_\_\_. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are ☐ acceptable. ☐ not acceptable (see explanation or Notice re Patent Drawing, PTO-948).

10. ☐ The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ has (have) been ☐ approved by the examiner. ☐ disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).

11. ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_, has been ☐ approved. ☐ disapproved (see explanation).

12. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of the claim for priority under U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has ☐ been received ☐ not been received -  
☐ been filed in parent application, serial no. \_\_\_\_\_; filed on \_\_\_\_\_

13. ☐ Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

14. ☐ Other

EXAMINER'S ACTION

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1. Note: Newly added claim 6 has been correctly renumbered as claim 10.
2. Claims 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
3. Claim 4, on line 2, the word "a" should be changed to --an--.

Claims 5 and 6 on lines 2, 3, the word "rod" should be changed to --shaft-- to provide proper antecedent basis.

Claim 7, on lines 2-3, the phrase "said balls said second position of said shaft" is vague and indefinite.

Claim 10, on line 1, the word --socket-- should be added before the word "receptor", and on line 11, --the-- should be added before the feature "punched holes" to clarify the claim's language.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --  
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-3, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Europe '842.
7. In Figures 5-8 of the Europe Publication disclose an

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embodiment of a locking female electrical receptor 2 comprising a pair of holes 4 for receiving the prongs 3 of a male plug 1. Actuator means 9 mounted on the receptor for selective relative movement with manually operated element 8. A pair of locking elements 16 for locking the prongs of the male plug to the socket body. The actuator being movable to a first position (Figures 5,6) for permitting insertion and removal of the prongs relative to the locking elements, and it being movable to a second position (Figure 7) for urging said locking elements into locking contact with the prongs of the male plug.

As depicted in Figure 7, the actuator means is shown having a greater width in the second position than in the first position due to the notch feature 15 formed in the actuator means.

Also as shown in Figure 8, two plug prongs 3 are shown. Therefore, the two locking elements 6 are readable as being movable toward each other, in opposite directions, relative to a definable and fixed coordinate frame.

8. Claim's 4-9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Examiner Khiem Nguyen at telephone number (703) 308-1738.

K. Nguyen  
Nguyen/nc  
September 29, 1992

L2 Schwartz  
Larry I. Schwartz  
SPE  
Art Unit 322